

CHILTON COUNTY

Honorable Rhonda J. Hardesty

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Mike Bearden
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Billy Wayne Fulmer

Randall Houston
Elizabeth Huntley
Kathy Crouthers
Melody Crawford
Nanci Scarpulla
Cheryl C. Maddox
Karen Easterling
Kay Massler
Mildred H. Ellison
Carl Allen Wyatt

Hal Taylor
Ludean Hicks
Janice Hull
Richard Moore
Janet Gullege
David Kard
Ronnie Mitchell
Winifred Adams



Council Priorities

1. Transportation

We will continue to provide transportation, educate all families on insurance opportunities. 2. Available and promote/support health fairs in our county.

2. Medical care for all families

We will continue to seek all children that do not have proper medical or mental health care because of funding or lack of insurance.

3. Safe and drug free environment for children

All programs for children must include an element of education of that program for the parents, and must make a positive impact on home and environment.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

After school programs

Action Steps

- 1) We will continue to support Project GEAR.
- 2) Elementary K-4 after school tutorial programs.
- 3) Mentor program working after school for all ages.

Awareness of programs

Action Steps

- 1) Continue media coverage and advertisement.
- 2) Continue to seek grants to work with growing Hispanic population.
- 3) Distribute information on agencies to schools, government offices and hospitals, etc. where most individuals have monthly or quarterly contact.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Job training programs

Action Steps

- 1) DHR will continue J.O.B.S. Program.
- 2) Local Industry to promote low skilled labor training.
- 3) Encourage students and adults to participate in State Employment Training.

Child support payments

Action Steps

- 1) DHR shall continue vigorous pursuit of fathers that are delinquent on support for their children.
- 2) Courts will continue to increase number of paternity tests given to establish paternity and set up child support payments.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Drop out rate

Action Steps

- 1) Partners in Education to motivate High School students.
- 2) Business participation to grow.

Exit exam pass rate to increase

Action Steps

- 1) Tutor Programs for those at risk of failing a particular subject.
- 2) Encourage mentoring programs by local professionals.

Increase reading levels

Action Steps

- 1) Start a reading program.
- 2) Offer after-school literacy programs.

Truancy continues to be a problem throughout the Chilton County school system

Action Steps

- 1) Continue to seek funds for Truant Officer Position through grant monies.
- 2) "Early Warning" court once a month to try to deter children from missing school.
- 3) Continue to seek grants to assist funding for staff at The Chilton County Alternative School.
- 4) Principals will continue to refer students to the Chilton Alternative Program (CAP) for repetitive behavior problems. CAP students remain on the school roll and continue their school work, rather than be suspended home. Therefore, CAP continues to help with the attendance rate in schools.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Transportation to appointments

Action Steps

- 1) J.A.R.C. Transit to continue to increase number of vans in service within Chilton County and continued support from DHR.
- 2) Baptist women will be available on as needed basis.
- 3) DHR provides transport for families with cases open to service.

County wide medical coverage for children

Action Steps

- 1) Continue covering kid's grants.
- 2) Work with doctors that participate in the health fair and provide insurance applications to their offices.
- 3) Continue to train participants to educate and work with Hispanic families.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Parenting classes

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage participation in parenting classes at the Shepard Center hosted by the Alabama Family Resource Center.
- 2) Chilton/Shelby Mental Health is looking into developing classes for parents to help them become aware of the warning signs of teens who are using drugs and/or alcohol.

Parent support information

Action Steps

- 1) Continue DHR referrals to Family Options for in-home services support.
- 2) Continue to utilize the Bradford Public Information Officer or other agency speakers.
- 3) Support the local PTA's involvement in the education of children.
- 4) Provide Support to parents with special needs children.
- 5) Support the Shepherd Center (provides information to help parents locate services for the needs of their family.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Drug and alcohol-free homes

Action Steps

- 1) Continue Court referral program with Isabella Hood.
- 2) Gather information to sponsor on Abstinence Rally before each school year begins that will also cover Teen Pregnancy.
- 3) Courts will continue to order parents to participate in drug programs so all children may live in drug free homes.

Child protection within the home

Action Steps

- 1) Establish a "Child Protect" interview office in the resource center.
- 2) Make the public aware of programs that DHR and Chilton/Shelby Mental Health have available to help parents cope with their problems.
- 3) Work on better communication with agencies about Child Abuse/Neglect.

Policy Recommendations

- Develop more programs that do not require parents to travel out of county.
- Support Family Resource Center with funding of director position.
- Availability of job training for Chilton County.
- G.E.D. classes and testing.
- Mentor program to continue participation.
- Juvenile drug programs with Court Referral Officer Isabella Hood to continue to be funded.
- Child Protect will interview all sexual abuse victims.
- Tutor/mentor programs.

Accomplishments

- After School Program for Latch Key Children – Provides after school supervision, tutoring in basic education and other social skills.
- Reading Program – Initiated a reading program designed to enhance the reading ability of those children who have fallen behind in school due to their inability to read.
- Life Skills Class for Minor Children – A ten week topical program that deals with drugs and alcohol, emotional issues, school success, relating to parent / family, goals, depression, anger management, and various other topics which relate to minor children.
- Youth Diversion Program – This program is similar to the Life Skills class except it is more in depth (Primarily for more troubled children)
- The Board of Education provides a Truant Officer through grant monies.
- All schools in Chilton County made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in attendance for the 05-06 school year - all schools reached the goal of 95% attendance. CAP (Chilton Alternative Program) helps with the attendance rate in schools.
- Early Warning Court is held once a month to deter children from missing school, contributing to the 95% attendance rate.